



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Planning a Labor Day Visit to Sequoia and Kings Canyon

The last holiday weekend of summer marks the end of the busiest season at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Planning ahead for your visit helps to ensure a safe, fun experience. Check out the park website, www.nps.gov/seki, for up-to-date information about activities in the parks. An online version of the park newspaper, with detailed park facility schedules and safety information, can be found there. Once you are in the park, bulletin boards and visitor centers offer the latest details on various activities, from camping to hiking to ranger-led programs.


You can explore the park by shuttle. Free in-park shuttle buses operate daily through September 20, between approximately 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Giant Forest Route runs along the Generals Highway from the Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole Visitor Center. It stops at the wheelchair-accessible trail to the General Sherman Tree, as well as at the main Sherman Tree parking lot and trail.

A second route travels the Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road. On holiday weekends, this is the only way to access the Moro Rock and Crescent Meadow Road by vehicle, due to the narrow road and limited parking. The only exception to this rule is for vehicles with handicapped placards or wilderness permits for the High Sierra Trail. A new shuttle route now connects Lodgepole Visitor Center/Campground to Dorst Campground.

The best parking for shuttle users is just inside the Lodgepole Campground; no camping fee is required to use this parking area. All buses are wheelchair accessible. For more information on the shuttle, see our website at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/parktransit.htm.

Until September 20, you can also take the Sequoia Shuttle between the City of Visalia and Sequoia National Park's Giant Forest Museum, through the town of Three Rivers. A round-trip ride, which includes the park entrance fee, costs \$15. For details and reservations, visit www.sequoiashuttle.com or call 1-877-BUS-HIKE. Once in Giant Forest, you can transfer to the free in-park shuttle.

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There are now some restrictions on campfires: Below 6000' in elevation, no wood or barbecue/charcoal fires are permitted, including in picnic areas and wilderness areas. Fires are permitted in designated campgrounds only. However gas or propane stoves may be used at all elevations. No smoking is allowed except in developed areas, campgrounds, or enclosed vehicles.

This summer, road construction is causing delays along the Generals Highway between the park entrance at Highway 198 and the Giant Forest Museum. On the holiday weekend, motorists should expect 20-minute delays at traffic lights on either side of the construction zone. Uphill-bound vehicles pass through the construction area first, and traffic is restricted to a single lane. Due to the narrow, twisting road, vehicles over 22 feet in length are not permitted through the construction zone.

On weekdays, delays at the construction zone are longer. Vehicles can drive through the 1-½ mile construction area at the top of each hour from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. From 6:00-6:30 p.m., there will be a half-hour delay. On Friday, September 3, hour-long delays will end at 2:00 p.m. Drivers will follow a pilot/lead vehicle.

In addition, night work may take place between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., Monday nights through Thursday nights/Friday mornings. There is one opportunity to pass through the construction area each night at 11:30 p.m.

In the park, always plan ahead to:

- Carry water on your hikes.
- Follow requirements to store food in bear-proof containers, not your car, even during the day. Bear-proof containers are available next to most popular parking lots in the park. If you plan to go backpacking, learn about food-storage requirements in the wilderness.
- Use extreme caution in and along rivers and creeks. **Drowning remains the most common cause of death at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.** Moving water is always more powerful than it may appear.
- Avoid personal contact with wildlife. Wild animals are meant to be “wild.” Do not try to feed, pet, or touch them. This will help keep you from being injured and save the life of a wild animal.

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